The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter, September 30, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 5, NO. 10 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1915. WHOLE NO. 218

REASONS FOR UNORGANIZED

President Gompers Says Ignorance Is Principal Cause.

FEAR OF JOB ANOTHER FACTOR

Pamphlets Issued by A. F. of L. Show Extent of Missionary Work Among Unorganized Workers.

Washington, June 5.—When President Gompers was asked by the industrial relations commission last week, if it were not true that organized labor is opposed to those laborers who refuse to join the union, he declared

"There are no such laborers."

The unionist presented numerous organizing pamphlets to show the missionary work being done by the organized workers.

He further stated that workmen, because of ignorance respecting the objects of organized labor, and the beneficent result sought for, remain away from the organization and also because of that ignorance lasts. Some others refuse to join unions in the hope of getting favor with the employers, but the large number are kept away by the coercion on the part of employers. He cited the efforts to organize the employees of the United States steel corporation, and gave instances where men who attended meetings were discharged, and where they suffered the same fate because their wives dared to attend. Thugs and gunmen were employed to prevent the men from organizing in Italy and meeting places were rented in advance by the company to prevent the men from holding indoor meetings, and even funerals meetings were prevented by local police authorities. Organizers were arrested and the case of Organizer Jeff Pierce, who received injuries that resulted fatally, was detailed at length.

President Gompers told of the efforts made by trade unionists to secure the right of free speech. The courts, he asserted, have attempted to abridge these rights without either warrant of law or knowledge of justice. He cited the case in which he was himself sentenced to jail with John Mitchell and Frank Morrison. Speeches made by him, in which he discussed the principles of unionism, were used as evidence to prove his violation of a court injunction and to warrant his sentence to jail for contempt of court.

In this case he said there was the most open and flagrant effort of the courts to prevent a man from exercising the right of free speech guaranteed him by the constitution.

QUARRY WORKERS ADVANCE

Barre, Vt., June 5.—The two months' strike of quarry workers against the Woodbury granite company, at Hardwick, has ended and peace now reigns throughout Vermont's quarry belt. The Beibel strikers secured substantial wage increases and better working conditions.

Secretary-Treasurer Buitor of the Quarry Workers' International Union reports that every local union has secured a signed agreement, with betterments. This one local's agreement expired July 1 and it is now negotiating a renewal.

The most notable gains reported by Secretary Buitor are:

Peekskill, N. Y.—Two-year agreement with substantial wage increases.

Fitzwilliam, N. H.—Three-year agreement without suspension of work.

Graniteville, Vt.—Five-year agreement, carrying increases of 16 cents a day for the first two years and additional 16 cents a day thereafter.

Barre, Montpelier, Waterbury and Northfield, Vt.—These locals get a 50 cent per hour minimum up to March 1, 1916, and 32½ cents thereafter. The old rate averaged 29 cents.

Shop stewards districts of East Barre, Williamstown and West Berlin have also secured agreements with increases.

FIGHT TO ENFORCE LAW.

Detroit, Mich., June 5.—The Detroit Federation of Labor has secured workers to compel city officials to obey the people's recent mandate, which amended the city charter by providing for a minimum wage on all municipal work and an eight-hour day. All contracts were to include these provisions, according to a two to one vote of the people, but officials have ignored the law.

The Detroit Labor News, published by the unionists, says the people should "drive home one point and make every member of the working class in the city believe it is one thing. That thing is, the organization of the working class on the industrial field."

DEDICATE LABOR TEMPLE.

Rochester, N. Y., June 5.—Trade unionists are arranging to dedicate their labor temple on next Labor day. The structure is four stories and a basement, with a frontage of 67 feet and depth of 145 feet, assembly rooms, offices, banquet hall and an auditorium that will seat 1,000 are features of this up-to-date home for Rochester's workers.

TALK ON "TAINTED BARGAINS."

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., June 5.—In a talk on "Tainted Bargains," Mrs. Frederick Keppel, of New York city, the girls attending Vassar college that out of 134 cases investigated 41 per cent received less than $6.50 a week, while the lowest living wage for self support is $9.

PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES.

Sioux City, Iowa, June 5.—The Plumbers and Steam Fitters' union has raised wages 25 cents a day beginning June 1, and on May 1, 1916, next year, will receive an additional 25 cents a day. The contract will run for two years and provides for the union shop.

AGAINST "RUNNING BOARDS."

Toronto, Ontario, June 5.—The Street Car Men's union is supporting the plan to abolish "running boards" on local street car system. At a public hearing, officers of the union showed the danger of this style of car.

TOBACCO STRIPPERS WIN

Hartford, Conn., June 5.—Tobacco strippers have raised wages and reduced hours. Previous to organization, they worked nine hours and received $2 a week on fillers, $2.50 on binders and $3 on wrappers. The new rates are based on an eight-hour day and call for $2.50 on fillers, $3 on binders and $3 on wrappers.

"SAFETY FIRST" SIGNS DON'T INDICATE SAFETY

Detroit, Mich., June 5.—"Hollering" safety first, and placing huge signs around a factory is less effective than removing conditions that cause accidents, was one of the points developed by President Mahon of the Amalgamated Street Car Men's union, in an address before an arbitration board that will decide whether the street car company wrongfully discharged a motorman.

The union claims that the worker was dismissed because he is a union official. President Mahon's answer to the company's plea of "safety first" follows.

"The way to establish safety first is the question that should be studied. It should be studied from its real basis. It is not putting up signs, or painting beautiful pictures of 'safety first,' but by going into the organization and the systems and putting it on a proper basis, placing the men who do the work, who are responsible for it, upon a condition of responsibility that will bring 'safety first,' and you will never have 'safety first' on the transporta. tion world until you do that.

"The hours of labor, the conditions of employment, the speed of the work, the treatment of men by the officials and officers of the company, and their entire attitude so as to establish between the company and the employer the harmonious relations that should exist, and which can only be established by taking into consideration the questions that have been noted, and many others. It is one thing to holler 'safety first,' and it is another thing to put it into operation. Our association is trying to teach men 'safety first,' and we contend that we are doing more than anybody 'safety first' than any other organization by establishing better wages, surrounding them with better conditions, and the improvement of their hours and their conditions.

"No act are just as much, gentlemen, interested in 'safety first' as is the company, or any other person. "But we are not going to let him put on 'safety first' to throw dust in our eyes, or dust in the eyes of the public."

SCHOOL HEAD RE-ELECTED.

Cleveland, Ohio, June 5.—By a vote of four to two, the board of education reelected Superintendent of Schools Frederick for a term of two years, over the protest of the local Federation of Labor and the Women's Trade Union league.

Last October Frederick was sentenced by Judge Neff to ten days in jail and pay a fine of $50 for contempt of court because of his refusal to reinstate teachers he had discharged. The teachers were members of the Grade Teachers' league affiliated to the Cleveland Federation of Labor. The school superintendent ordered the efforts of teachers to improve conditions and increase wages through organization, and incurred the court order commanding him to desist. The court of appeals is now considering Frederick's appeal against Judge Neff's decision.

In protesting against the re-election of the school head, Federation of Labor officials charged him with being "stubborn, narrow, arbitrary and manifestly inefficient."

LABOR IS NOT A COMMODITY.

Washington, June 5.—Before the industrial relations commission, that was created by congress, it asserted that the declaration placed in the Clayton law by Senator Cummins, "the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce," is a charter of industrial freedom. Until this law was enacted, labor was the only one treated labor both as a commodity and as an article of commerce.

The union counsel declared it was upon this theory that the United States supreme court had found against labor in the hatters' case, and to support this claim he quoted a speech by former Attorney General Wickersham, who stated that had the Clayton law been in existence at the time this case went to the court the decision would have been different.

FIREMEN RAISE WAGES.

Kansas City, Mo., June 5.—Stationary Firemen's union has raised wages for 200 firemen employed by the city from $2.75 to $3.14 per week of seven days, 12 hours a day. Since 1906 the rate has been increased through organization to $24.50 per week of seven days, with an eight hour day. In other words, the men receive more than twice the pay now for fifty-six hours a week that they formerly received for eighty-four hours a week. These workers are now discussing the possibilities of securing a forty-eight hour week with a further reduction of working hours, as their union has inspired them to still greater things.

CHAIRMAN WALSH PRAISED.

Boston, June 5.—The attempt to discredit Chairman Walsh of the industrial relations commission, based on his vigorous cross-examination of John D. Rockefeller, jr., was answered by the United Textile Workers of America, in which they passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Unitarian fellowship of social justice sends its greeting to the Hon. Frank Walsh, chairman of the industrial relations commission on industrial relations, and rejoices in his wisdom and courage in pursuing a relentless investigation of the Rockefeller interests and the Colorado strike."

WANT OFFICIAL DISMISSED.

Vancouver, B. C., June 5.—The Trades and Labor Council has asked for the removal from office of Chief Inspector of Mines Graham, who is charged with attempting to deceive the jury at the inquest of the nineteen miners who were drowned in a mine at South Wellington last February. The disaster was caused by water rushing into the mine from another mine. Nine Italian miners died in the mines were 425 feet apart, but the actual measurement showed the distance to be only two feet. At the inquest the mine inspector acknowledged that he knew this plus prints were drawn to different scales.

TO ENFRANCHISE VOTERS.

Austin, Tex., June 5.—On July 24 the citizens of this state will hold a referendum election on house joint resolution No. 1 which provides that a qualified voter, necessarily absent or detained from his home on election days, may cast his vote in whatever county he may happen to be at such time.

VICTORY FOR COAL DIGGERS

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., June 5.—Attorney Denvers, head of the legal department of the United Mine Workers' union in the anthracite region, says these workers have won an important victory by the passage of the Catlin bill, and that only through organization was success possible.

Heretofore the mine operators held they were not responsible for accidents or fatalities, as the state loaned certificates to mine foremen, thus relieving them (the operators) of responsibility. The Catlin bill changes this by placing miners under the compensation law.

Attorney Denvers, praises both the union and its officials. He says:

"The work of the mine workers' officers who participated in this battle of brains should be complimented by every man, woman and child in the anthracite region, for the good work they have and done them well. In debate and argument they overmastered the best men that the operators produced. To their untiring efforts, backed by their powerful membership, is due the greatest credit for placing the miners in the field of independence where they can knock at the door of the mine operators and say to him, 'pay me for the damage you have done me through the neglect of your property.'

"The operators will now pay for every accident and death, and they can choose between the strict liability law which they can come under the compensation law or be liable for all they have to pay for the damage done. I am of the opinion that under this new law which becomes operative on the first January next, that January 1, 1916, that you will see a wonderful decrease in mine accidents and deaths.

"It is to be hoped that every mine worker in the anthracite field will realize from the work that has been accomplished, that it pays to remain loyal to the organization."

ELEVEN PER CENT UNEMPLOYED

Washington, June 5.—Fifteen cities have been canvassed by an insurance company for unemployment statistics, which the department of labor has been the department of labor in its effort to secure reliable statistics of unemployed and put time as the basis. The number of families questioned are 236,887, and the number of wage earners in these families are 644,358. The canvass was made during March and the first week in April.

The results show a total of 72,300 unemployed, or 11.5 per cent. The part time wage earners total 74,462, or 11.6 per cent. Duluth, with 20.3 per cent, reports the highest number of unemployed.

Other cities with their unemployed per cent, follow: Boston, 10.2; Bridgeport, 4.2; Chicago, 12.2; Cleveland, 9.4; Fall River, 9.1; Milwaukee, 7.2; Minneapolis, 13.8; Philadelphia, 10.3; Pittsburgh, 11.8; Scranton, 9.1; Springfield, Mo., 7.1; St. Paul, 14.1; Toledo, 7.5; Wilkes-Barre, 6.4.

SUPPORTS WALSH.

San Francisco, June 5.—Editor Barry of the Star, San Francisco, alarmed over the charge that Chairman Walsh of the industrial relations commission was prejudiced against Rockefeller, jr., when the latter testified in Washington. The newspaper man declared:

"Chairman Walsh of the federal commission on industrial relations is getting some good licks in. He is earning the game. He is exposing some shams—John D. Rockefeller, jr., for example. He is working his way to the bottom of some things. He is removing the dirt from the surface. He supports this claim he quoted a speech by former Attorney General Wickersham, who stated that had the Clayton law been in existence at the time this case went to the court the decision would have been different.

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ROCKEFELLERS ARE BLAMED

Every Charge By "Bitterest of Agitators" Is Sustained.

ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR LUDLOW.

Chairman Walsh of Industrial Commission Says They Are Even Guilty of "Viler Forms of Larceny."

Kansas City, Mo., June 5.—Every charge made by the "bitterest of agitators" against the Rockefellers has been sustained.

This is the sum total of a statement by Chairman Walsh of the industrial relations commission, which has closed its hearings, and is now preparing recommendations for presentation to Congress, next fall.

The value of the commission's investigations, according to Chairman Walsh, lies in

"The American people now have access to a public record which, for the first time in the history of the country, tells the whole story of how great monopolistic property interests can get control when they wish to crush a revolt against industrial despotism, and thus to retain their arbitrary power over the lives of men, women and children.

"The record of the Washington hearing, to my mind, is remarkable, chiefly because every major indictment which Rockefeller, father and son, as well as the other coal operators working with them in Colorado, by their own testimony, has been fully proven out of the mouths of John D. Rockefeller, jr., or the men whom he hires to work for him, and the joint will his father and himself; in most instances backed up by letters over the signature of these men.

"Political domination, intimidation of the people, contempt for government, and the American people as a whole, the prostitution of the state militia to private interests and utter disregard for the state and federal constitutions, as well as for statute law; the conspiracy of the Ludlow massacre; the exploitation of helpless miners by economic pressure and the vile forms of larceny in the company stores, are all made to appear the coal companies had met in conference representatives of the strikers, when such was not the case; the carefully organized and extensive campaign of falsehood by John D. Rockefeller, jr., and his personal lieutenants."

ACQUITTAL OF UHLICH INDICATES NEW POLICY!

Trinidad, Col., June 5.—Unionists are looking if the acquittal of Robert Uhlich, union official, charged with murder, indicates that new policies will be followed by the district that he

Scores of miners are under indictment and two have been found guilty—John R. Lawson and Louis Tikas—charged with the murder of Uhlich. Lawson's case will be held in Trinidad in 1917. Most of the old officers were re-elected, the following board of Uhlich, being relatively. The company has rejected the proposal.

The workers also ask that the five-year apprenticeship clause be modified, as it now stands, so as to check to keep the average wage low. If a man contracted a car for years in another city and secured a card in that city, the apprentice would not be considered, but he would be paid the minimum wage received by men who were working in a car. If he worked the same length of time for a Chicago company, left its employ and returned, he would begin work in a car, receive credit for the purpose of making men competent, but simply to secure cheap labor.

OPPOSE SHORT BALLOT.

Albany, N. Y., June 5.—At a meeting of representatives of railroad brotherhoods in this city protest was made against the proposed short ballot and appointive judiciary amendments to the state constitution.

The resolutions declare that this plan would "turn backward to a system of politics that these states officers in vogue more than half a century ago, a system found by experience to be full of scandalous corruption." It was called by a chief judge of the supreme court "a hideous monster,' and was abolished by the framers of their convention in 1846."

The arguments to appoint judges, instead of electing them, was as vigorously condemned.

The executive of trades unionists, held in this city and attended by President Gompers, similar action was taken.

WANT "GENTLEMEN" DEPUTIES.

New Brunswick, N. J., June 5.—At the trial of strike deputies, charged with murder, in connection with the strike of workers at the Roosevelt chemical works, last January, Joseph D. Williams, one of the accused, testified that when he was sworn in the sheriff told him to act as a "gentleman." Williams said he fired three shots at the strikers, two of whom were killed and 19 injured.

Another deputy, Edward Partes, testified that he was connected with the Pinkerton detective agency and that the shooting was employed as a laborer in one of the fertiliser plants, and was an officer in the union.

BOSSED CRY "BOSSES."

Chicago, June 5.—When union carpenters were considering the wage scale submitted this year by their employers, the latter made public demands that the trade unionists hold a public meeting at which employers answered as follows by Business Agent De Young:

"The employers' criticise and decry what they call the boss system in the union, a criticism which one would expect to be made in a pedestrian way, by the common admission of the trade, is groundless, but if we should fall power and control of all matters connected with the agreement for a public meeting, no direct ballot having been held."

FAIR WAGE RATE IS EVADED.

Toronto, Ontario, June 5.—Trade unionists are charging that contractors evade obey the fair wage law, which is violated for the benefit of contractors. When a delegation of organized workers visited the city hall, one alderman declared: "Taxpayers want us to pay them a good wage, but not the expense of the taxpayer."

The Industrial Banner official newspaper of the Trades and Labor Council, says: "The disgusting spectacle of well-fed agents of the contractors trying to beat down the workmen who get only 35 cents an hour can be seen at the city hall quite frequently."

MR. TAFT SINGS OLD SONG

New York, June 5.—William Howard Taft, ex-President and ex-federal judge, has evidently nothing new, despite opportunities for study and research as a teacher in an eastern university. He made a speech last week at the annual banquet of the National Association of Manufacturers.

With an irony known only to injunction judges, Mr. Taft denounced "the leaders of the American Federation of Labor for exercising a power that is excessive and detrimental to the public weal and the good of society." The law followed by the state and frazzled platitude "if fully approve of the principle of labor unions." Mr. Taft repeatedly referred to "the law," but failed to distinguish between real law and the lying decisions judges manufacture. The Clayton act, which declares "the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce," was also opposed. This is quite natural for the ex-jurist.

The speaker's remedy for present conditions is "political courage," which, translated, means the law governing unemployment.

The extension of popular rule and control of officials by the initiative, referendum and recall.

A state law to insure employers against a risk of workmen's compensation, to the exclusion of every other form of insurance, except state.

Empowering the state and its several political divisions to undertake such public works as will engage in times of industrial depression for the purpose of relieving distress from unemployment or other extraordinary emergencies.

Abolish the power of the courts to nullify laws regularly passed by the legislature, and to try a jury in all criminal or quasi-criminal prosecutions where the offense charged is punishable by imprisonment in excess of all cases of contempt of court.

That this country shall make a provision as follows: "That the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce, and the legislature shall not enact a law and the courts shall not construe a law contrary to this declaration."

Any act which any person may legally and lawfully do shall be held to be legal and lawful when done by two or more in concert.

The following resolution was reached on the short ballot: "Inasmuch as the so-called 'short ballot' is a proposition to vest great power in the hands of the chief executive of the nation, states and municipalities, it is in violation of the fundamental principles of justice, democracy and freedom. The proposition should therefore not be indorsed, but should be vigorously opposed, and it is hereby condemned."

CAR MEN VOTE STRIKE POWER.

Chicago, June 5.—By a vote of 8,503 to 38 employes of the Chicago street car lines gave their officials power to call a strike in the event that the company refuses to grant the increased wages. The present rates range from 22 to 34 cents an hour. The union wants this increased 2 to 4 cents per hour respectively. The company has rejected the proposal.

The workers also ask that the five-year apprenticeship clause be modified, as it now stands, so as to check to keep the average wage low. If a man contracted a car for years in another city and secured a card in that city, the apprentice would not be considered, but he would be paid the minimum wage received by men who were working in a car. If he worked the same length of time for a Chicago company, left its employ and returned, he would begin work in a car, receive credit for the purpose of making men competent, but simply to secure cheap labor.

PRESSMEN MAKE GAINS.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., June 5.—President Berry of the International Pressmen and Assistants' union announces the following gains:

Contracts have just been signed with the Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City. The dispute has been on for several years, and the adjustment re-establishes the unionists in satisfactory wages. The settlement will have a most decided effect upon all printing trades artisans throughout Oklahoma.

Contracts have been renewed with improved conditions with 37 firms employing printers and newspaper publishers in Ontario.

Pressmen's union of Miami, Fla., secured contracts with every employer in the city, securing the most exceptional working conditions.

ANTI-SCREEN LAW REPEALED.

Columbus, O., June 5.—Governor Willis has signed the Gallagher bill which provides that it shall be unlawful with mine owners and employes whether the latter shall be paid day or tonnage rate if it is screened, or afterward.

This means that the Green anti-screen law, which provided for run of mine system (pay for all the coal mined) which has been in force and passed last year after a twenty years' fight by the workers. It was introduced by Secretary Green of the United Mine Workers of America, who was then state senator. There is some dissatisfaction among the miners at having a referendum on this question, although Ohio miners have secured the 8-hour day through their organized movement.

WAR CAUSES POSTAL DEFICIT.

Washington, June 5.—Postal revenues for the fiscal year 1915 increased $8,000,000 over the preceding year, which ends July 1, show a deficit of virtually $8,000,000. Figures issued by the post office department for the expenses of the postal establishment in the last nine months, but five more than the corresponding period last year, while receipts decreased almost $50,000.

In connection with the financial statement Postmaster General Burleson said: "The deficit is directly attributable to the European war, which has caused a loss in normal growth of postal revenues. Were it not for the parcel post, the deficit for the first nine months would be greater than it is. The parcel post service is undoubtedly worth much larger."

PAINTERS ASK HIGHER WAGES.

Philadelphia, June 5.—The painters' district council has presented a new agreement to employers. Wage increase are asked, as is the union shop, apprentice regulations and a joint board to pass on the qualifications of journeymen. The union also urges that arbitration proceedings be agreed to that future differences may be adjusted.

UNIONISTS STAND TOGETHER.

Philadelphia, June 5.—The Woolen and Carpet Workers' union has gone into its three months' strike for the reinstatement of a member who was wrongfully discharged.

MR. TAFT ASKS CHANGES IN LABOR ORGANIC LAW

Albany, N. Y., June 5.—President Gompers assisted unionists of this state in preparing a list of 21 proposals for presentation to the state constitutional convention, now in session. The workers agreed that a campaign of education must be conducted in favor of these planks, which include:

The writ of habeas corpus shall never be suspended and military tribunals shall not exercise civil or criminal jurisdiction over citizens while the regularly constituted state courts are open to administer justice.

Abolish the state constabulary and the employment of private armed forces in labor disputes. The governor of the state shall be the commander-in-chief of the army and naval forces thereof, and that as such commander he alone be empowered to call out any portion or the whole of said forces for either the aid or use of troops.

Power to enable the state to insure workers against accident, sickness, invalidity and age and unemployment.

The extension of popular rule and control of officials by the initiative, referendum and recall.

A state law to insure employers against a risk of workmen's compensation, to the exclusion of every other form of insurance, except state.

Empowering the state and its several political divisions to undertake such public works as will engage in times of industrial depression for the purpose of relieving distress from unemployment or other extraordinary emergencies.

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SCORES SHUFFLING SOLONS

Chicago, June 5.—Because of its hostile attitude toward legislative and labor legislation, the Chicago Tribune expresses this view of Illinois lawmakers:

"To protect the youth of the community from the demoralizing influences the Illinois house of representatives defeated the bill which would have prohibited prize fighting exhibitions. On the same day the same legislative body so mangled and mutilated the child labor bill that the men and women who have worked all winter to obtain this safeguard for children to grow up physically, morally, and intellectually sound.

"Youth must have protection against supervised and regulated boxing but childhood need not have sufficient protection against unsupervised and unregulated work."

UNIONISTS STAND TOGETHER.

Philadelphia, June 5.—The Woolen and Carpet Workers' union has gone into its three months' strike for the reinstatement of a member who was wrongfully discharged.

"LAWSON MUST BE FREED"

President Gompers Voices Organized Labor's Demand.

HUMAN RIGHTS MOST IMPORTANT

Unionists' Economic Power Is Forcing New Concepts of Human Life and Liberty.

Washington, June 5.—"Lawson Must be Freed" declares President Gompers in the leading editorial of American Federationist, June issue. The causes that forced Colorado miners on strike, are discussed, as are other recent events in that state.

"This attempt," writes President Gompers, "to hold John R. Lawson responsible in connection with the death of a man of which he had no knowledge, stands in vivid contrast to the studied efforts of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to establish his complete ignorance of the Colorado strike and hence his complete irresponsibility. John R. Lawson is now standing to gain by the death of John Nimmo, and John D. Rockefeller had profits at stake in the suppression of the Colorado strike.

"Hidden behind vast property have created the paramount importance of property and have exalted and exaggerated the part that property has in production. At the same time they have minimized and detracted from the importance that the laborers render. Through their political influence and their economic power they have incorporated this conception into governmental and legal theory. It is this conception of property, this injustice, that the workers are now directing the power of the labor movement against.

"Slowly the workers are learning to appreciate their great economic power. As property rights are the world in their grasp. Through their economic power they are beginning to inject into political and legal thought the conception of the sacredness of human life and the paramount importance of humanity. They are trying to establish a real equality of opportunity in industrial and political affairs; they are trying to secure equal governmental protection to both human beings. That is the real revolution the labor movement is working for.

"The great injustice and wrong already inflicted on Lawson must be undone at once.

"John R. Lawson must be freed!"

OPPRESSION IN PORTO RICO

Washington, June 5.—A. F. of L. Organizer Jesus Iglesias and President Martinis of the Cigar Workers' union of Porto Rico told the industrial relations commission of the kind of oppressive conditions prevailing in that island.

Only after the island was occupied by Americans, said Martinis, did the Porto Ricans learn that all men have equal rights. "We became enlightened," he said, "and we began to protest at the wrongs that we had been treated in the past." The witness stated that despite the workers' being fined and thrown into jail for organization and a right of free speech, they have been thrown into jail on the slightest pretext. The imprisonment of women and children in industries that formerly prevailed in the state now prevailing, was mentioned as a factor in causing unrest.

We want to protect the widows and orphans of workers killed in industry, and we want the big bosses, the trust magnates, interested in the political ringleaders to cease waging warfare on our labor organizations," said President Martinis.

Organizer Iglesias told the commission of efforts to organize the forest workers in the recent strike of agricultural laborers. The witness, together with other A. F. of L. officials, had been "pulled from the stands" by policemen and thrown into filthy cells because they attempted to address the strikers. Many of the latter were arrested, the strikers they lived in trees and in the swamps near the fields. The witness said that buildings were set on fire by the police in accord with the crime for the purpose of discrediting their cause. Scores of workers were arrested and thrown into jail without the right of securing counsel or summoning witnesses.

Officials of Porto Rico defended these statements and dwelt at length on the generous treatment given to labor by the state. Commissioner O'Connell asked if the governor of Porto Rico had not addressed a letter to workers asking them to accept the employers' offer. This incident could not be recalled by the officials. Finally, after the case was stated, President Gompers stated that this strike was on while he was in the island; that he investigated the strike fields. The witness said that buildings were set on fire by the police in accord with the crime for the purpose of discrediting their cause. Scores of workers were arrested and thrown into jail without the right of securing counsel or summoning witnesses.

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"SHORTEN WORK DAY."

Rock Island, Ill., June 5.—After locking out nearly 200 employes, contending that it shall be the employers' "inherent right to run their business," District Council settled differences through arbitration. The same hours and wages applied before the lockout, but the workers secured a half Saturday off the entire year. Heretofore, they have been allowed only one or two certain months. The contract signed will be in force for two years. These workers now have a 44-hour week.

PROFITS IN CO-OPERATION.

Royalton, Ill., June 5.—The co-operative society of the place, known as the Royalton Mercantile association, has just had issued a report covering the period from its organization in 1913 to date. The statement shows the society to be in good shape and that profits during this time amount to $1,698.62.

REFUSE TO ARBITRATE.

Sioux City, Iowa, June 5.—Organized workers charge that an anti-union association of building material dealers of this city who have refused to arbitrate differences with their striking employes.